

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 and 37-71 were examined and reported in the Office Action. Claims 1-27, 37-52 and 65-70 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 53-64 and 71 are rejected. Claims 53 and 54 have been amended. New Claims 72 and 73 have been added. Claims 53-64 and 71-73 remain.

Applicant requests reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks.

It is asserted in the Office Action that Claims 53 and 71 are objected to due to informalities.

In response, Applicant has amended Claims 53 and 71 in response to the Examiner's objections.

Accordingly, approval is respectfully requested.

It is asserted in the Office Action that Claims 53-64 and 71 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

It is asserted in the Office Action that Claims 53-64 and 71 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Emens et al. (US Patent No. 6,832,218).

In response, Applicant has amended Claims 53 and 54 and added new Claims, namely Claims 72 and 73 to more clearly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention over the prior art of reference cited by the Examiner.

With respect to the above amendments, Applicant notes that although the Examiner has found similarities between Emens and the present invention, it appears that there is one fundamental difference, namely, in Emens, resources can be associated (in the meaning of the Examiner, i.e. ticked in a list of results from a given request) provided that they emanate from a common request.

This means that the user cannot freely associate any resources together. They have to be delivered at the same time by a search engine. By way of contrast, the present invention provides that the second resource (or plurality of second resources) is obtained independently of the first resource.

Claim 53 and added independent Claim 72 positively recite this distinguishing limitation, i.e., in Claim 53 "obtained independently from said first resource" and in Claim 72 "providing a

second resource at a different time from said first resource and having a potential relevance relationship with other resources based on a relevance scoring process.”

By using the invention, a text file (first resource) created by the user on his own PC and relating to a given topic can be associated with a given web page (second resource) on a similar topic obtained on the same PC by browsing, and each time another web page (other resource) similar to said given web page (second resource) is accessed, the existence of the text file (first resource) will be indicated.

Accordingly, the present invention allows full flexibility between first and second resources to be associated, while Emens has the prerequisite that these resource must be present together (and at the same time) in the results of a prior search request.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC 102(e) to Claims 53-64 and 71 as being anticipated by Emens et al. (US Patent No. 6,832,218), is respectively requested.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the claims pending following entry of this amendment, namely Claims 53-64 and 71-73 are now in condition for allowance which early Action is requested since the independent claims 53 and 71 are patentably distinguishable over the prior art of record as noted above.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would be useful in moving the case forward, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being submitted electronically via EFS Web on the date shown below to the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Linda Metz

Date:  5/13/04